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The Annual Report

For the Year 1925

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Forehoe Rural District Council.

(Submitted to and approved by the Rural District Council on the 3rd August, 1926).

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The Annual Report

For the Year 1925 of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEATH

TO THE

FOREHOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure of presenting to you my report on the Sanitary conditions of the Forehoe District for 1925. I believe it is my fiftieth report.

In accordance with the Circular 648, received from the Ministry of Health, the report is a survey of the past five years.

The District consists of twenty-three Parishes, with an area of 38,528 acres, and an estimated population of 11,500, chiefly engaged in agriculture. It is situated nearly in the centre of the County, and is some twelve miles in length and seven miles in breadth.

The rivers Yare and Wensum with their tributaries water a considerable portion of the District.

The prevailing soil is loam of a very varying quality.

The climate is, in the spring, considerably colder than the adjacent Counties, probably owing to its exposed position to the wind which prevails in the early months of the year.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1925 is 12,020, and showing a slight increase.

The Births registered during the year were 220, (Males 115, Females 105.) Illegitimates 9. Birth rate per 1,000, 18.3.

For the four previous years,	1924, 18	1922, 21.7
	1923, 19.4	1921, 21.4

The Deaths from all causes and at all ages were 145. Death rate per 1,000, 12.05.

1924, 8.9	1922, 11.5
1923, 11.0	1921, 9.9

Deaths from all causes and at all ages; Cancer 25, Tuberculosis 8, Heart 24, Cerebral Hæmorrhage 19, Arterio Sclerosis 10, Pneumonia 10, Bronchits 6, Influenza 6, Nephritis 4, Accidents 3, Suicides 1, Diabetes 1, Appendicitis 1, Obstructive Jaundice 2, Congenital Debility and Malformation 7, Senile Decay 7, other defined Diseases 11.

Cancer has enacted this year a big toll, 25.

1924, 15	1922, 12
1923, 15	1921, 14

Tuberculosis. There were 8 cases in 1925.

1924, 11	1922, 11
1923, 4	1921, 17

Deaths under 1 year numbered 9 in 1925, and were as follows: rate per 1,000, 31.1, Premature Births 2, want of Medical attendance 1, Enteritis 1, Asphxia 1, (illegitimate,) Fœtal Ascites 1, Bronch Pneumonia 3.

In 1924,	6	rate per	1,000,	27.9
1923,	15	,,	,,	67.2
1922,	17	,,	,,	70.7
1921,	12	,,	,,	49.8

Infectious Diseases, 191 notified. Chicken Pox 33, Influenza 53, Pneumonia 3, Scarlet Fever 42, Diphtheria 1, Erysipelas 7, Whooping Cough 8, Tuberculosis 44. Influenza; several cases of a severe nature, and 6 deaths occurred. Scarlet Fever. The cases were of a mild character, and there were no deaths, Tuberculosis, of the 44 cases 21 only were primary.

4, 1924, 102 notifiied	16, 1922, 81 notified
16, 1923, 126 notified	8, 1921, 66 notified

Disinfection after infectious diseases is systematically carried out by the Sanitary Inspector by fumigation, and at the same time endeavours are made to explain the **disinfecting power** of **Sunlight, Fresh Air** and **Soap** and **Water.**

Drainage.

In the Towns of Wymondham and Hingham the drainage as has been reported **year after year,** is most unsatisfactory. The construction of the Sewers is very defective, and very old, and are constantly becoming choked. In neither of the Towns is there any treatment of the Sewage, this in Wymondham discharges into the River, and at Hingham, into the main Outlet Dykes, these Dykes being frequently choked with vegetable growth.

In the Villages many of the houses make use of ditches near by, and eventually the sewage finds its way into the River.

Water Supply.

This I can only state, is in my opinion quite as unsatisfactory as the Drainage.

Scavenging.

In Wymondham there has been a great improvement, but in Hingham the work has not been carried out satisfactorily. In the other Parishes each Occupier arranges for the disposal of Closet contents and Household refuse. Our Inspector tells me that with few exceptions this works well.

The Village of Costessey is the one exception to this method.

Here it will be necessary to provide Costessey a proper scheme, as there is a considerable increase in the number of its inhabitants, owing to an influx from Norwich, and there are many new houses and others building.

Closet Accommodation is only fairly good. The approximate number of the various types of Closets is as follows : Water Closets 50, Earth Closets 1,600, Vault Closets 1,100.

During this year 28 Vault Closets have been abolished, 27 were converted to Earth Closets provided with pails, and floors made impervious.

Eighteen new Earth Closets were made where the accommodation was insufficient or defective. Three Closets were repaired, 9 new Earth Closet pails were ordered to be supplied where those existing were defective.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 18 registered Slaughter Houses within the District, each has been periodically inspected during the year and found in a cleanly condition. In 2 cases structural alterations were being carried out, which will materially improve them.

Frequent inspections have been made on killing days, but no evidence of diseased Meat has been found.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Fifty-eight in number have all been inspected, and with four exceptions, were found in a cleanly condition. One License has been issued under the Milk (Special Designation Order 1923). Four informal notices issued for the cleansing of Cowsheds, were immediately complied with.

No case of revocation of Registration of a Retailer occurred during the year.

Factories and Workshops.

One new Workshop has been added to the register.

Two new Earth Closets were provided where there was insufficient Closet accommodation, and 1 Workshop had to be cleansed and lime washed.

Schools.

There are 17 Public Elementary Schools in the District. The Lighting and Ventilation in all is good. The Cloak Room accommoda- in 2 instances was unsatisfactory. The Play Grounds in 2 or 3 cases require better drainage. The Closet accommodation is fairly good.

Housing.

Number of new Houses erected during the year.

(*a*) Total (including number given separately under (*b*) 92)

29 of these are Railway Carriage Dwellings.

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Act.

(I) By the Local Authority, 4

(II) By other Bodies or Persons, 20

1 Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION :

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Act)	102
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	35
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	5
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	14

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of imformal action by Local Authority or their Officers	12

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair... ...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices	Nil
	(*a*) By Owners	
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close ...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(*a*) By Owners	2
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

Proceedings under section 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act. 1925.

Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	5
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

There were on the 1st of January, 1926, the following Houses in course of erection, with State assistance under the Housing Act.

(I)	By the Local Authority	26
(II)	By other Bodies or Persons ...	13
	Without State assistance	9

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Miss Helena Young, State Registered and Certificated, (our Health Visitor), reports as follows:

Visits paid	1450
Midwifery Cases attended	7
Health Talks	7
Clinics	12
Women taken to Norwich for Dental Treatment ...	4
Children taken to Jenny Lind Hospital	5

The Isolation Hospital has again been of very material service.

In conclusion I think you must feel with me that the district is in many ways much improved, especially during the past five years.

The Housing is much better.

The Death rate is much less, especially the infantile rate.

The Slaughter Houses are better kept.

The Cowsheds and Dairies are far more satisfactory, in short we do not tolerate filth as we did in earlier days.

I would like to express my thanks to the Medical Officers of the District, to the Sanitary Inspector, and to Miss Young for their valuable help.

T. LAMBERT LACK.